



Associated Press

GEN. JAMES DOOLITTLE
... sees "time of crisis"

Hagen Cites '55 Curb on Vanguard

Top Priority Label Rejected by Higher Authority, He Says

By John G. Norris
Staff Reporter

The chief of the Nation's satellite program disclosed yesterday that he had recommended top priority for the project two years ago, but the proposal was turned down by higher authority.

This decision, testified John P. Hagen, Project Vanguard director, undoubtedly was responsible for the Russians' putting their sputniks into orbit well ahead of the United States. Declaring he personally had been convinced of the

"psychological and political" importance of being first, Hagen declared:

"Had we in the beginning been given the priority and the men, money and materials to go with it, we would certainly have advanced the launching date and I think certainly been ahead of the Russians."

Hagen told the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee he believed that "space investigation and space flight" should be put under a single agency, either inside or outside the Pentagon, with "authority and responsibility for action." Under questioning, the Naval Research Laboratory scientist said he did not know who had turned down his 1953 proposal that Vanguard be given the funds and priority asked

for on the status and aims of their recently reported testing plan, with charts and models, mental range. The Subcommittee also explained in laymen's language how it will work. His heard Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle declare that Russia is priority for Vanguard and "certainly ahead of us" in recommendation for a unified long-range ballistic missiles and expanded space program and that there should be an immediate, substantial increase in military spending. The leader of the first bombing raid on Tokyo said he believes the United States still leads Russia in over-all military strength, but that the Soviets are gaining so fast they soon "may overtake us."

Declaring a "time of crisis" is at hand, Doolittle called for a wide variety of steps to strengthen the Nation—including bolstering the Strategic Air Command, an "all-out" program to develop an anti-missile missile for defense of the United States, and creation of a military staff for the Secretary of Defense.

Sees Soviet Strong in Air

Doolittle, now chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and a Shell Oil executive, said he believed Russia had built a stronger air defense system than the United States. He said he believed our SAC bombers still could get through to their targets, but only by "overwhelming their defenses by mass attacks. No one asked him whether such tactics would mean heavy losses.

Planes now in SAC, said Doolittle, are "skinny" in number, and the B-52 bombing program should be stepped up. Bases must be more dispersed, so that only one squadron of the 15 bombers are on any one base. Crew turnover should be cut by higher pay and flying time should be increased so that pilots can remain proficient. Some Air Force pilots today are allowed only 5 hours' flying a month as an economy measure, he said. The veteran pilot, adding that he quit when he found he had time for no more than 10 hours a month.

Doolittle said he wasn't competent to say what additional steps should be taken to bolster the Army and Navy, but suggested both should have "what they need."

He called for amendment of the law to give the Secretary of Defense a military advisory staff of "young, progressive people" to assist him in solving "honest differences of opinion" among the services. This, he said, should be a first step toward greater unification, which should be "evolutionary."

General Staff

"Someday I believe we have to have an old type general staff with a single head," Doolittle said.

He declared that this is a "time of crisis" and that "American people fear a military group will lead us into

men into battle to die, he added, he knows that this attitude is unfounded, as no one rates war more than a professional military man.

"One of our major shortcomings," Doolittle said, "is a lack of rapid decisions because of honest differences of opinion on important matters."

He disagreed, however, with the proposal of Scientist Vannevar Bush that war plans be handed over to a three-man board of retired officers, declaring it is too easy for such people to lose touch with current developments.

Doolittle called for a quick decision on whether to build the Air Force Thor or the Army Jupiter as the Nation's IRBM.

He said his information, based on "hearsay," is that the decision will not be made until about Jan. 1—and "it should have been made long ago."

Doolittle said the Nation needed better radar and that the SAGE system for automatic air defense control was "lagging." He said more money is needed for basic research, not only in outer space but oceanography and other fields. Industry should lend some of its scientists to the Government to speed up research, he declared.

The 60-year-old scientist, chairman, and businessman called for relaxation of security rules to make possible greater dissemination of information among scientists. He said a new positive policy is necessary if we are to stop "penalizing ourselves and our allies."

Asked if American intelligence hadn't consistently underestimated Russian strength and progress, Doolittle said no. The flier, a member of the President's committee on foreign intelligence, added:

"I believe those who interpreted the intelligence reports underestimated the Russian strength."

Doolittle opposed suggestions for a "Manhattan Project" for missile development, declaring better coordination was what is needed.

He said the reason Russia is "working harder" than we do,

... testing of various types of short and medium range bal-

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